

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A system combination for purifying a flow of exhaust gases of diesel or gasoline multicylinder engines containing, on average, an excess of oxygen, and in which a mixing ratio of the engine is periodically adjusted from a lean mixing ratio to a more stoichiometric or rich mixing ratio with a λ value below 1.2, the system ~~comprising a combination~~ combination consisting of three operational units ~~the combination consisting of~~:

a NO_x adsorption catalyst;

an oxidation catalyst effective to promote oxidation of NO to NO₂ during said lean mixing ratio; and

a particle separator,

wherein, in a flow direction of the exhaust gas, the NO_x adsorption catalyst is arranged before said oxidation catalyst or the NO_x adsorption catalyst is arranged in the a same structure with the oxidation catalyst ~~of the three operational units~~, whereby the system combination reduces the amounts of hydrocarbons, carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides and particles present in the exhaust gas.

2. (Canceled).

3. (Currently Amended) The system combination of claim 1, wherein the order of the operational units, in flow direction of the exhaust gas, is as follows: the NO_x adsorption catalyst, the particle separator, and the oxidation catalyst effective to promote oxidation of at least NO to NO₂ during said lean mixing ratio.

4. (Currently Amended) The system combination of claim 1, wherein the order of the operational units, in flow direction of the exhaust gas, is as follows: the NO_x adsorption catalyst, the oxidation catalyst effective to promote oxidation of at least NO to NO₂ during said lean mixing ratio, and the particle separator.

5. (Currently Amended) The system combination of claim 1, further comprising an exhaust gas discharge line for each cylinder of the engine, the exhaust gas discharge lines connected to a connecting channel, wherein at least one operational unit of ~~said combination of operational units~~ is arranged in the exhaust gas discharge line and the connecting channel.

6. (Currently Amended) The system combination of claim 1, further comprising an exhaust gas discharge line for each cylinder of the engine, each of the exhaust gas discharge lines connected to a connecting channel, wherein the NO_x adsorption catalyst is arranged in each exhaust gas discharge line and wherein said oxidation catalyst effective to promote oxidation of at least NO to NO₂ during said lean mixing ratio and said particle separator are arranged in the connecting channel.

7. (Currently Amended) The system combination of claim 1, wherein the system includes two or more partial systems in parallel, each of the partial systems comprising said operational units.

8. (Currently Amended) The system combination of claim 1, wherein the NO_x adsorption catalyst and/or oxidation catalyst effective to promote oxidation of at least NO to NO₂ during said lean mixing ratio are disposed in the same structure with the particle separator.

9. (Currently Amended) The system combination of claim 1, wherein the oxidation catalyst effective to promote oxidation of at least NO to NO₂ during said lean mixing ratio contains platinum and/or palladium catalytic metal(s).

10. (Currently Amended) The system combination of claim 1, further comprising an exhaust gas discharge line for each cylinder of the engine or one exhaust gas discharge line for two cylinders of the engine, wherein NO_x adsorption catalyst is arranged in each exhaust gas discharge line.

11. (Currently Amended) The system combination of claim 1, wherein the system combination is adapted to enable the mixing ratio of the engine is to be periodically adjusted from a lean mixture to a rich mixture with a λ value below 1.2 in order to regenerate sulfates, nitrates, and particles.

12. (Canceled).

13. (Currently Amended) The system combination of claim 10, wherein said NO_x adsorption catalyst contains catalytic metal platinum and/or rhodium and at least one of the following elements: Ba, Sr, La, Y, Ce, Zr.

14. - 20. (Canceled).

21. (Currently Amended) The system combination of claim 13, wherein the NO_x adsorption catalyst further contains at least one of the following elements: Li, Na, K, Rb, Cs, Be, Mg, and Ca.

22. - 26. (Canceled).

27. (Currently Amended) The system combination of claim 1, wherein the NO_x adsorption catalyst and the particle separator are disposed at the same location.

28. (Currently Amended) The system combination of claim 1, wherein the oxidation catalyst effective to promote oxidation of at least NO to NO₂ during said lean mixing ratio and the particle separator are disposed at the same location.

29. (Currently Amended) The system combination of claim 1, wherein the NO_x adsorption catalyst is arranged as a first operation unit of the combination of three operational units in the flow direction of the exhaust gas.

30. (Currently Amended) The system combination of claim 1, wherein the oxidation catalyst effective to promote oxidation of NO to NO₂ during said lean mixing ratio is further effective to promote conversion of HC to H₂O and CO to CO₂.

31. (Currently Amended) The system combination of claim 1, wherein the ~~combination~~ of three operational units are distributed in a first structure and a second structure, wherein the first structure is an exhaust gas discharge line from one cylinder of the engine and the second structure is a connecting channel downstream of the first structure in a direction of the flow of exhaust gases.

32. (Currently Amended) The system combination of claim 1, wherein the ~~combination~~ of three operational units are distributed in a first structure and a second structure, wherein the first structure is an exhaust gas discharge line from a plurality of cylinders of the engine and the second structure is a connecting channel downstream of the first structure in a direction of the flow of exhaust gases.

33. (Canceled).

34. (New) A system combination in a structural arrangement for purifying a flow of exhaust gases of diesel or gasoline multicylinder engines containing, on average, an excess of oxygen, and in which a mixing ratio of the engine is periodically adjusted from a lean mixing ratio to a more stoichiometric or rich mixing ratio with a λ value below 1.2, the system combination comprising only three operational units:

a NO_x adsorption catalyst;

an oxidation catalyst effective to promote oxidation of NO to NO₂ during said lean mixing ratio; and

a particle separator,

wherein, in a flow direction of the exhaust gas, the NO_x adsorption catalyst is arranged before said oxidation catalyst or the NO_x adsorption catalyst is arranged in a same structure with the oxidation catalyst, whereby the system combination

reduces the amounts of hydrocarbons, carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides and particles present in the exhaust gas.